

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1171

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:UK, PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT, JULY 19

REF: (A) PARIS 17810; (B) LONDON 9446

SUBSEQUENT TO REF A, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH OUR UK AND
QUAI COLLEAGUES ABOUT THE ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT, WE WERE
STRUCK BY DIVERGENCE BETWEEN BRITISH AND FRENCH APPRE-
CIATIONS OF THE SUMMIT'S VALUE. OUR UK EMBASSY SOURCES
HAVE SOUGHT TO FOCUS ON THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS (REF A
PARA 3 - 5), EMPHASIZING THEIR VALUE AND PLAYING OFF
THE DISAGREEMENTS THAT CHARACTERIZED DISUCSSIONS OF
UK-EC RELATIONS AND ENERGY PROBLEMS. FROM THIS THEY
CONCLUDE THAT THE SUMMIT WAS SOMETHING OF A SUCCESS.

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OUR QUAI SOURCES, ON THE OTHER HAND, MINIMIZE THE IMPOR-

TANCE OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS (ALTHOUGH THEY FIND THIS AWKWARD TO DO IN THE CASE OF CONCORDE), AND UNDERLINE THE FAILURE TO RESOLVE UK AND FRENCH DIFFERENCES ON EUROPEAN POLICIES. AS INDICATED IN REF B, THE FRENCH VIEW THE CURRENT UK GOVERNMENT AS LAME DUCK, AND EXPECT NO MOVEMENT ON UK "RENEGOTIATION" UNTIL AFTER BRITISH ELECTIONS. THUS, SINCE THE QUAI DID NOT EXPECT ANY CHANGE IN UK POSITIONS ON THE MULTILATERAL PROBLEMS DISCUSSED IN PARIS, IT IS NOT CALLING THE SUMMIT A "FAILURE." NEVERTHELESS, OUR QUAI SOURCES FIND LITTLE OR NO "SUCCESS" IN THIS FIRST ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT BETWEEN GISCARD AND WILSON, AND FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO HELP THE UK STAY IN THE EC REMAINS RIGIDLY RESTRAINED.
IRWIN

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